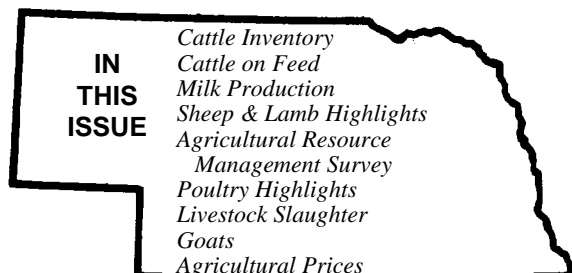


Issue 03-2005, released February 2, 2005, by the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. For more information contact us at: 100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-437-5541, e-mail at nass-ne@nass.usda.gov, Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.



Dear Producers and Data Users:

Information contained herein is the result of mail, phone and personal interview surveys conducted during the past few weeks. Special recognition and appreciation are extended to all producers and agribusinesses who provided data making these reports possible.

Mark Harris

Mark Harris
Director

Cattle Inventory

All cattle and calves on hand January 1, 2005, in Nebraska totaled 6.35 million head, up 2 percent from 2004.

All cows on hand January 1, at 1.97 million head, were 3 percent above last year. The 2004 calf crop was estimated at 1.8 million head, up 2 percent from 2003.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in all feedlots on January 1 were 2.47 million head up 1 percent from last year.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2005, totaled 95.8 million head, 1 percent above the a year ago.

All cows and heifers that calved, at 42.1 million, were up 1 percent from the 41.9 million on January 1, 2004. The 2004 calf crop was estimated at 37.6 million head, down 1 percent from 2003.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in all feedlots on January 1 were 13.7 million head down slightly from last year.

Cattle and Calves: Number by Class and Calf Crop, Nebraska and United States, January 1, 2003-2005

Class	Nebraska				United States ¹			
	2003	2004	2005	2005/2004	2003	2004	2005	2005/2004
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>		<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>	
Cattle and calves	6,200	6,250	6,350	102	96,100	94,888	95,848	101
Cows and heifers that have calved	2,000	1,910	1,970	103	42,125	41,851	42,060	101
Beef cows	1,934	1,848	1,909	103	33,983	32,861	33,055	101
Milk cows	66	62	61	98	9,142	8,990	9,005	100
Heifers 500 pounds and over	1,690	1,820	1,810	99	19,629	19,344	19,672	102
For beef cow replacement	280	280	320	114	5,624	5,518	5,746	104
For milk cow replacement	20	20	20	100	4,114	4,020	4,133	103
Other heifers	1,390	1,520	1,470	97	9,891	9,806	9,793	100
Steers 500 pounds and over	2,000	2,120	2,160	102	16,554	16,277	16,511	101
Bulls 500 pounds and over	100	90	100	111	2,248	2,206	2,219	101
Calves under 500 pounds	410	310	310	100	15,545	15,210	15,385	101
	2002	2003	2004	2004/2003	2002	2003	2004	2004/2003
Calves born	1,820	1,770	1,800	102	38,224	37,903	37,625	99

¹ Totals may not add due to rounding.

Source: USDA NASS Cattle, January 28, 2005.

**Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings and Other Disappearance,
1,000+ Capacity Feedlots, by Month, State, and United States, 2003-2005**

State	January 1 Number on Feed ¹			December Placements			December Marketings			December Other Disappearance ²		
	2004	2005	<u>2005</u> <u>2004</u>	2003	2004	<u>2004</u> <u>2003</u>	2003	2004	<u>2004</u> <u>2003</u>	2003	2004	<u>2004</u> <u>2003</u>
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>
Arizona	293	331	113	32	33	103	22	30	136	1	1	100
California	510	535	105	70	72	103	55	62	113	5	5	100
Colorado	1,040	1,080	104	180	135	75	190	145	76	10	10	100
Idaho	300	295	98	53	55	104	60	62	103	3	3	100
Iowa	370	450	122	50	71	142	48	55	115	2	1	50
Kansas	2,430	2,410	99	410	490	120	435	450	103	25	20	80
Nebraska	2,280	2,300	101	350	390	111	340	380	112	10	10	100
New Mexico	115	126	110	14	14	100	17	15	88	3	2	67
Oklahoma	355	350	99	53	53	100	45	52	116	3	6	200
South Dakota	200	192	96	31	42	135	30	34	113	1	2	200
Texas	2,830	2,700	95	420	405	96	410	420	102	20	25	125
Washington	200	190	95	30	39	130	38	32	84	2	2	100
Other States	330	350	106	55	35	64	50	40	80	5	5	100
U.S.	11,253	11,309	100	1,748	1,834	105	1,740	1,777	102	90	92	102

¹ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

² Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

Source: USDA NASS Cattle on Feed, January 21, 2005.

Milk Cows and Production: By Quarter, Nebraska, 20 States and United States, 2003-2004

Item and Quarter	Nebraska		20 States		United States	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>1,000 Head</i>	
Milk cows ¹						
July-September	63	61	7,772	7,765	9,073	9,031
October-December	62	61	7,726	7,763	9,011	9,018
	<i>Million Pounds</i>		<i>Million Pounds</i>		<i>Million Pounds</i>	
Milk production ²						
July-September	268	254	36,359	36,795	41,746	42,174
October-December	270	264	36,105	36,537	41,532	41,895

¹ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Source: USDA NASS Milk Production, January 18, 2005.

**Sheep and Lambs: Number by Class, January 1, 2004-2005 and
Lamb Crop, Nebraska and United States, 2003-2004**

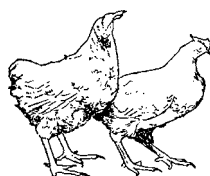
State	Total Breeding Sheep & Lambs		Total Market Sheep & Lambs		All Sheep & Lambs		Breeding Ewes 1 Year & Older Jan 1		Lambs per 100 Ewes 1+ Jan 1		Lamb Crop	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>		<i>1,000 Head</i>	
Nebraska	81	75	21	22	102	97	63	67	140	125	88	84
United States	4,499	4,533	1,606	1,602	6,105	6,135	3,773	3,610	110	113	4,140	4,096

Source: USDA NASS Sheep and Goats, January 28, 2005.

Challenging Times call for Powerful Facts

The Agricultural Resource Management Survey provided the facts policymakers used to craft the Farm Bill.

Keep your leaders informed. If you are selected for this survey, please respond to show agriculture's economic status today.



Poultry

During December 2004, layers in Nebraska totaled 12.0 million birds, an increase of 2 percent from the previous year. The total number of layers in the United States during December 2004 averaged 345 million, up 2 percent from December 2003.

Poultry: Layers and Eggs, Nebraska and United States, December 2004 with Comparisons

Item	2003	2004	2004/2003
	Millions		Percent
Number of Layers			
Nebraska	11.7	12.0	102
United States	338.2	344.5	102
Eggs Produced			
Nebraska	268	272	101
United States	7,520	7,699	102
Chickens Hatched			
United States			
Egg-type	33.6	37.0	110
Broiler	780.1	793.0	102
Hatched thru December			
United States			
Egg-type	416.1	437.5	105
Broiler	9,079.7	9,331.0	103

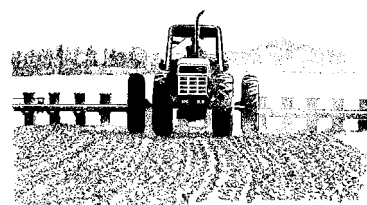
Source: USDA NASS Chicken and Eggs, January 24, 2005.

What is ARMS?

Agricultural Resource Management Survey or (ARMS) is an annual study of the financial well-being of America's agricultural producers. ARMS is the only source of the key economic indicators that are used for farm programs, farm legislation, trade regulations, university research and state grants. Users include legislators, agricultural commodity associations, agribusinesses, the news media and USDA agencies.

What are Key Economic Indicators?

Key economic indicators are the income-to-expense and debt-to-asset ratios, costs of production, net income and other financial fact--not just opinions--that describe a true picture of American agriculture's economic landscape.



Commercial Livestock Slaughter

December 2004 output and changes from last year and last month are shown below. December 2003 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays. December 2004 contained 23 weekdays (including two holidays) and four Saturdays.

Livestock Slaughter: By Commodity, Nebraska and United States, December 2004 with Comparisons

Item	Total ¹ (1,000)	Dec. 2004 percent of	
		Dec. 2003	Nov. 2004
Nebraska	1,000 Head		
Cattle, head	594.2	106	109
Hogs, head	626.1	102	105
Red Meat, mil. lbs.	603.2	108	108
United States			
Cattle, head	2,690.5	101	106
Calves, head	74.7	77	110
Hogs, head	9,250.1	99	103
Sheep & Lambs, head	242.4	93	100
Red Meat, mil. lbs.	3,930.8	101	104

¹ Excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Source: USDA NASS Livestock Slaughter, January 21, 2005.

**Goats: Number by Class,
Nebraska and United States, December 31, 2002 and January 1, 2005**

Class	Nebraska		United States	
	2002 ¹	2005	2002 ¹	2005
	<i>Head</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Head</i>
Angora Goats	973	1,050	300,753	274,000
Milk Goats	2,541	3,000	290,789	283,500
Meat and Other Goats	8,204	13,000	1,938,924	1,965,000
Total Goats	11,718	17,050	2,530,466	2,522,500

¹ 2002 Census of Agriculture.

Source: USDA NASS Sheep and Goats, January 28, 2005.

Prices Received: By Commodity, Nebraska and United States, Preliminary January 2005 with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Nebraska			United States				
		Jan 2004 ¹	Dec 2004 ¹	Jan 15, 2005	Jan 2004 ¹	Dec 2004 ¹	Jan 15, 2005	% of Parity	Parity Price ²
		<i>Dollars</i>			<i>Dollars</i>				
Wheat, All	Bushel	3.58	3.23	3.25	3.68	3.39	3.42	35	9.90
Corn	Bushel	2.38	2.01	1.95	2.39	2.04	1.98	30	6.63
Oats	Bushel	1.87	1.59	1.60	1.48	1.56	1.51	38	3.94
Grain Sorghum	Cwt	4.33	2.87	2.85	4.36	2.99	2.87	27	10.80
Soybeans	Bushel	7.26	5.24	5.20	7.35	5.45	5.32	33	16.00
Hay, All, Baled	Ton	52.00	51.00	51.00	80.10	84.30	84.20		
Alfalfa, Baled	Ton	53.00	51.00	51.00	84.80	92.40	90.90		
Other, Baled	Ton	47.00	50.00	49.00	70.20	67.10	70.60		
Dry Edible Beans	Cwt	15.50	24.60	24.40	17.20	26.70	27.00	54	50.30
Hogs	Cwt	39.10	53.30	53.40	36.80	52.30	53.00	50	106.00
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt	39.30	53.50	53.60	37.20	52.60	53.30		
Sows	Cwt	28.50	44.00	45.00	28.40	44.60	45.70		
Beef Cattle	Cwt	84.90	92.00	95.00	80.90	86.80	89.10	52	172.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	86.10	93.30	96.30	85.40	91.80	94.20		
Cows	Cwt	47.60	50.80	52.20	46.10	48.70	50.00		
Calves	Cwt	120.00	130.00	133.00	110.00	122.00	123.00	53	234.00
Sheep	Cwt	43.50	42.40		43.80	44.80			84.20
Lambs	Cwt	99.00	98.00		104.00	102.00			209.00

¹ Entire month average except hay.

² Parity price based on data for January 2005.

Source: USDA NASS Agricultural Prices, January 31, 2005.

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